

# SPIRITUALISM

Geoffrey E. Youlden

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What it is.

What the Bible says about it.

Arthur Ford, American's foremost psychic-medium, and, by the way, a man who called himself a Christian minister as well, died of a heart attack on January 4, 1971, at the age of 73. Before the day mm finished and before his ashes could be scattered over the nearby water ways that he requested, he sent word back from the other side to a psychic medium by the name of Ruth Montgomery, saying that he use feeling as young as the merry month of May. Mrs. Montgomery reports the story that I'm telling you. The next morning she says that she sat at her typewriter with her fingers in the touch position. For fifteen minutes each day her fingers typed out the story, and she wrote a book which was destined to become the best seller. It's the story of Arthur Ford who dictated this book to her as her fingers were placed in the touch position of the typewriter. This is what she claimed and he dictated this book. The book claims to be an eyewitness account of first hand information on what happens after death. That's the way it happened, so she says. The book is spiced all the way through if you pick it up and read it, with various names such as John Kennedy, Winston Churchill, Marilyn Monroe. But strangely, Arthur Ford says nothing in the book about Jesus or God. He says, I've found no trace of God or Jesus.

So the one who wants to be assured that there is no death, no hell, no judgment, no devil to worry about, will find great comfort in the book written by Ruth Montgomery dictated by Arthur Pore. If this book, and multitudes like it, is a true picture of what happens after death, it is the biggest story that has ever hit the press. On the other hand, if it isn't, it's the greatest lie that has ever been perpetrated and believed by approving public. You see, it's either one or the other. Either it's the greatest news that's ever been written or it's the greatest lie. It's one or the other. It cannot be both.

The question that I want to deal with is, Did Arthur Ford write this book from the other side? If he didn't, who did? You see, today we live in a generation that is demanding to know what is on the other side. You can't attend a psychic party or a coffee evening anywhere but the subject of the psychic world comes into the conversation, reincarnation tariff cards, palmistry, crystal balls, India medicine men, Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Yoga in the form of health and reducing classes, Ouija boards which I notice in America has replaced Monopoly as the family's great past time.

Another thing I have noticed about the psychic world is this, that it's always some death that is predicted or some plane crash that is predicted or an election. Nothing that deals with the needs of the human heart is death with in the psychic world. It's always something that excites the fancy of a believing public, and grapples with the imagination of people. People are two eager to believe this so-called phenomena.

Bow what is spiritualism? Well, spiritualism is one of three sources. Spiritualism is either of man, or it's of God, or it's of the devil. I don't know of any other power that it could be from.

Now is spiritualism of man? Well, I have investigated the claims of spiritualism and I have found that science is at a loss to explain much that is claimed by spiritualists. In fact, some of the greatest scientists this world has ever know, after they investigated the claims of spiritualism, have become avowed believers in it, men like Sir Canon Doyle, Sir Alfred Wallace, Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir James Barnes, Sir William Coon, all were knighted men.

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Scientists who began to investigate the claims of spiritualism and spiritualists, found they became believers in it. In fact, the book *Scientific America* said some years ago, "There are many things in spiritualism that science is at a loss to explain," and that's true. There are some things about spiritualism that you cannot explain purely from a human stand point.

Now some time ago I was talking to a man who claimed to be a spiritualist. I said to him that spiritualism is from either one of three sources. He challenged me, you see, to a debate on the subject of spiritualism. I said, "Spiritualism is from one of three sources. Either it's of man, or it's of God, or it's of the devil. "Now I am willing to admit that it's not of man because there are some things about spiritualism that men cannot explain." He said, "O, you admit that." "Yea," I said, "While there's a lot in spiritualism which can be put down to trickery, nevertheless, there are some things in spiritualism that cannot be explained on that basis." Now he was surprised that I would admit that. "Yes," I said, "I freely admit that." "Well," he said, "It's of dead men." "Well," I said, "Let's have a look at what the Bible says on the question of the dead because spiritualism claims to be able to communicate like Roth Montgomery did with Arthur Ford, to communicate with the dead. Now what does the Bible say?"

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6. "For the living know that they shall die but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

6. "Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun."

In the Bible, death is referred to as a sleep over 50 times. Remember, Jesus said, talking about Lazarus, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps." Paul said, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep."

In fact, the word "cemetery" that we all use is an old English word which means, to lull to sleep. If you ever go through a cemetery and you look at the old tomb stones, what three letters do you find on many tomb stones? R.I.P. What does R.I.P. stand for? Rest in Peace. Because originally all Christians believed that people, when they died, you see were resting in peace because they believe what the Bible says. That's what the Bible teaches that they rest in peace. But, you see, as the church got away from the Word of God, they began to copy the old pagan idea of life in death. The letters R.I.P. have continued with churches even though the churches teach differently because the people who put those words on those tomb stones believe that they go to purgatory, but they put on their tomb stones R.I.P. because that is what the Bible teaches. What the Bible teaches is that when we close our eye in death we know nothing until the resurrection.

Paul said, "If there's no resurrection then those that are fallen asleep in Jesus are perished." The hope of Christians is always in the resurrection, and not in death. It's very largely because of this pagan concept that the Christian church has adopted of life in death that you go on living, only in another form in death, that it's made of non-effect the resurrection and the second coming of Jesus. Because, listen! If we flit off to heaven or we go to hell or wherever it is, as they say the wicked go at death, what is the use of the judgment? Well, we have already received our reward, isn't that right? There would be no use of a judgment. What about the second coming of Jesus? Would there be a necessity if we've already flitted off one by one? It wouldn't be a necessity for the second coming of Jesus because we'd already be there. It's very largely these teachings that has contradicted these great teachings of the Bible.

When you go to sleep at night and you close your eyes, you know nothing until you wake up. The Bible says, that's what it's like in death. You close your eyes in death and will know nothing until the resurrection morning, until you hear the voice of Christ as He calls the dead from their graves, the voice of God, the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel and the dead in Christ shall rise first. We have no recollection of time in death. Just like when you go to sleep. When I go to sleep at night, if I wake up in the middle of the night, I have no idea what time it is until I look at the clock. I could have been asleep five minutes or five hours, I wouldn't know because you're unconscious, you're not aware of the passing of time. And that's what the Bible teaches what happens at death.

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I remember some years ago I had an operation. The only operation I've ever had, the only time that I've ever been in hospital. As a youngster I was letting off crackers which I shouldn't have been doing. I wanted to get out of the road of this big banger and I went back and I didn't see that there was a trolley behind me and I fell over and I put my arm down to save me and I broke my arm. There were some complications in the fixing up of the arm, and I had to go to hospital. It was in the days when they use to give you the masks over your nose. They put it over my nose and they told me to breathe deeply, and I took it in and immediately my head began to go round and round, and I thought, here it goes. Do you know that the next second I woke up. I thought when I woke up that they hadn't performed that operation after all. I began to lift my arm, and I suddenly realized that I had something on my arm that I didn't have when I went into the operation. I looked up at the clock and it was four and a half hours later. I thought it was the next second. I had been asleep for four and a half hours and I wasn't aware of it.

That's what the Bible says about death. When you close your eyes in death, the next waking moment for you will be the second coming of Jesus. It doesn't matter how long you've been dead, whether you've been dead one thousand years or one year, it won't make any difference. Time will mean nothing. Time will pass just the same.

Now I meet other people who suggest that we've got a soul inside us, something that can't die. But the Bible doesn't teach that because if God can't render the soul unconscious, the doctor did the last operation you had because you were completely unconscious, not aware of any pain, no feelings, you know nothing. That's what the Bible says in Ecclesiastes, "The living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything." Their love, their hatred, their envy is now perished until Jesus returns.

You know, I've met some people who are very frightened about walking through a cemetery at night. I've known big strapping fellows who would never walk through a cemetery at night because they feel that some hobgoblin or something would jump out and grab them. As I said to them, You can be frightened of the living. You've got cause to be frightened of the living, at least some of them, but there's one group of people that you never need to be frightened of and that's the dead because the Bible says, they're sleeping peacefully and will remain that way until Jesus returns.

Verse 10. "Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might...."

Why does Solomon advise us to do with our might now? The rest of the verse answers.

Verse 10. "For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goes."

So Solomon advises us and says, "Look: You get what you're going to do and do it now because it's too late once you've died." There's no knowledge, there's no wisdom, there's nothing. It's too late after you die. The saints of God are asleep in Jesus. When Jesus comes He'll bring them back to life with Him.

Psalms 146:4. "His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth: in that very day his thoughts perish."

So immediately we die, the Bible says, our thoughts perish and that agrees with what we just read in Ecclesiastes.

So I was talking to this spiritualist. I said, "Spiritualism is from one of three powers. It's either of man, or of God, or of the devil." Well, he said, "It's of dead men." Well, I took up these texts. I went through an hour with him as we discussed the subject, and I said, "The word of truth in the Bible is simply this, that the dead know not anything. The dead are unconscious until Jesus returns." Well, after an hour together discussing this, he was concerned too that the Bible is true, when it says the dead do not know anything. Well, he said, "Spiritualism then is of God." I'll read you the verse that I read him. When he realized that it wasn't of men, either living or dead, he said that it was of God.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12. "There shall not be found among you anyone that makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.

11. "Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

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12. "For tall that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee."

Now a necromancer is someone who asks questions of the dead. God absolutely forbade His people to get involved with familiar spirits or with wizards or necromancers, anyone who claimed to be able to talk with the dead. If it's possible to talk with the dead, what is wrong with it? After all, the most wonderful thing to do is to be able to talk with our loved ones. And surely, when our loved ones die, if we can communicate with them, if we can talk to them it is one of the sweetest doctrines in all the Bible. What is wrong with it?

Wells the reason that God forbids it in simply this, that if you try and talk with the dead, you'll get an answer alright. That's the problem. You try and talk with the dead like Doris Stokes does and you'll get an answer. She gets an answer alright. Some of it may be deception, but all of it is not deception. She does get answers and so do millions of other spiritualists in the world. If you try and communicate with the dead, they'll answer you alright. But the question is, Is it your dead loved one that are giving the answer? That's the question. God has expressly forbidden His people to try and talk with the dead because God says, If you try and talk with the dead, you'll get an sneers but the answer is not coming from your loved one. It is coming from the enemy himself, Satan, who is personifying your loved one. The deceptive voice in spiritualism is the voice of the devil and he can talk in the same intonation as your loved one. He can give you private things which only your loved one my know about. He knows about them, and he's able to communicate these to you, and people are deceived because they think that it's the voice of their loved one. The Bible says it's not the voice of your loved one because the dead know not anything. It's the deceptive voice of Satan himself who is impersonating and masquerading as your loved ones. Even ministers today are dabbling in this form of Satan worship, spiritualism, because spiritualism is nothing more or less than the worship of the devil.

You may have heard of Bishop Pike, an Anglican or an Episcopalian minister, bishop of the Church of England, whose son committed suicide. When his son committed suicide it tragically broke the father, and he went along to a spiritualistic medium, and the spiritualistic medium put him in contact with his son. Bishop Pike has written a book about his conversations with his dead son who committed suicide. And he's a minister, a bishop of the church. Tragically, not so long ago, he was over in Israel and he lost his life while he was over there.

This in only one I'm illustrating. But there are thousands of ministers who are involved in spiritualism, and they call themselves Christian ministers, and are dabbling with this form of Satan worship that Satan in deceiving millions with today.

Revelation 12:7-8. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.

8. "And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

So you see, the Bible teaches that the first war began in heaven. Satan, the dragon, had lost that war, and he was cast out to this earth. Since then he has been carrying on his war of deception right here. The Bible teaches that the whole world is deceived by Satan.

That's why when people come along to me and they say, "Are you suggesting that the vast majority of people are wrong in the world today in keeping Sunday and in doing these things?" The answer is, the Bible says that Satan has deceived the whole world, and the majority never prove anything as far as truth is concerned. If the majority prove anything as far as truth is concerned it proves that they're in error because the majority have never stood for truth. They've always been on the side of error. You look down through the stream of history from Adam and Eve right down to our own day. You can't name me a single instant in history when the majority of people have stood for truth. It's always only ever been a minority. And in these last days we cannot expect God's truth to be held by the majority. We'll have to look to the minority. Here God says that the devil, when he was cast out to this earth, he has deceived the whole world.

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So I said to this spiritualist, "Spiritualism is not of man, either alive or dead. Nor is it of God because God expressly forbids it. That only leaves one other source and that is, the devil." And I began to speak a little faster now as I outlined to him the origin of spiritualism. It stare right back in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:6. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.

Now right back at the beginning in the Garden of Eden when the serpent deceived Eve, God had said, "If you touch of this tree of good and evil, thou shall surely die. The devil came along to Eve and he said to her, "Ye shall not surely die." Now who told the truth?

You know, when I was over in Adelaide a couple of years ago I was giving a lecture on the subject of spiritualism and I asked this question. We had advertised it and we had three men sitting right down in the front. And I asked the question, "Who told the truth? God said, You would die. The devil said, You won't die. Who told the truth?" One of those men shot to his feet instantly. He said, "On that occasion the devil told the truth." I said, "Ladies and gentlemen, that is the voice of a spiritualist." That is the teaching of spiritualism today. They believe that God lied when He said, You'd die. They believe that Satan told the truth.

It was that lie that you don't die when you die, but you go on living only in another form, which is the foundation of all lies. That's why Jesus said, "The devil was a liar from the beginning." This was the first lie, and it's this lie that is, the immortal soul doctrine that you go on living after you die only in another form,, which is the basis of every false religion that you see here, Roman Catholicism, Limbo, Buddhism, Eternal torment, purgatory, Christian Science, Mohammedanism, spiritualism, reincarnation, pantheism, Hinduism, Theosophy, heathenism, Shintoism, Apostate Protestantism. All of those churches are based on the lie of the devil, that is, you don't die when you die, but you go on living, only in another sphere. The first lie that began all lies was from the devil. And the first sermon on that, that was preached on the immortal soul doctrine, was preached by Satan himself back there in the Garden of Eden.

People say to me, "Why worry about the dead? Why worry about spiritualism?" Well, listen: I wouldn't bit a bit concerned about spiritualism at all. I wouldn't want to take a whole lecture on it, except for one thing. That millions today are being deceived by this, thinking that they are in communication with their loved one, when in actual fact they communicating with Satan himself. There are many sincere people who don't understand what we've discussed from the Word of God. We need to make it clear that the deceptive voice in spiritualism is not of God. It's of the devil himself. Spiritualism today is growing.

We have such films like Exorcist and a whole list of films, and also television programs that are coming out. In fact, I've been staggered. I hardly ever have television on because we won't allow our children to ever watch any of the so-called harmless films or harmless programs for the children. Because if you look at them, you'll notice that in many of them spiritualism is the base. You notice in such things as Bewitched, how that you have people suddenly disappearing and appearing here. The basis of all that is spiritualism, and in a subtle way. We know, we need to be very careful with what we even allow our children to see.

1 Timothy 4:1. "Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

So you meet the devil has doctrines. He has teachings. Don't run away with the idea that the devil doesn't have teachings. He has beliefs. One of his foundation teachings idle that you don't die when you die. That's the devil's teaching.

Verse 2. "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

What is hypocrisy? What's a hypocrite? Someone who claims to be something when they know they're not. The Bible says here that the devil is going to speak lies in hypocrisy.

You know, spiritualism is one of the most cowardly teachings that I know. For when a person is all wrung out in grief and emotionally upset, the devil comes along to them and begins to whisper in their ear, "Don't

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be discouraged. I will put you in communication with your loved one.” When a person is all broken up and they’re grief stricken, the devil comes along. And I loathe it because it comes when a person’s resistance is about as low as ebb. That’s how millions are swamped with spiritualism because they’re caught when they’re so distressed through death. And when the heart is tender, they’re very easy victims of the deception.

So I said to that spiritualist, “Spiritualism is not of man, either living or dead. The Bible expressly says that it’s not of God because God hates it and God warns His people about getting involved. The only source of spiritualism is of Satan himself because, you see, when we are dead we cannot answer.”

Revelation 16:14. “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

Now listen! I am surprised at the number of Christians, even Christians who profess to believe the Bible who believe that all miracles are of God. The Bible says that all miracles are not of God. Some miracles are of the devil. Just because you see something which is super-natural, don’t for a moment think that it’s necessarily of God, even though it may be good. The devil performs many good things to deceive people and to deceive good people. He’s not going to deceive Christian people, you and me, with bad things. We will say, “No, we know who the origin of that is.” The way a Christian would be deceived is by having something good done super-naturally, and the devil is capable of doing that. Here God warns us, the devil working miracles.

You will see things on television, you will see things that are happening and read about things that are going on in the world which science will not be able to answer. Most people will attribute that to God because it’s super-natural. Don’t you, because the Bible says that the devil can perform miracles. The reason he’s going to perform miracles is to deceive and cause people to be led in that last great battle, the battle of Armageddon. No matter where you go round the world today you’ll find that spiritualism is gaining in adherence.

Then I was over in England, I found that great country that was once the bastion of all that was good. We all remember the days, at least some of us may remember it more from the history books or some of us may remember when we were children, the days when Britannica ruled the seas, but England has gone down. When I was over there in England I was staggered to find out how many spiritualists there are in England. Less than five percent of England’s population go to church now, and the percentage of spiritualists in England is absolutely alarming. And we’re following much the same pattern here in Australia with the occult and this phenomena gaining every day in peoples’ attention. God said that that’s what’s going to happen in the last days.

Now what are the fruits of spiritualism? What are the results? Dr. Schofield, a great London physician, he said, “There are one hundred thousand cases of insanity in Great Britain that have been caused by spiritualism.” That is, he suggests that spiritualism will crack the minds of people, how people say, “If spiritualists can perform these things, why do they have to get involved with trickery as often as they do?” I’ll tell you why. A medium told me this, that when they go into a real seance, it puts such a strain on their nervous system that they’ll probably lose a few pounds of weight. You can see, that to be involved with this type of thing day after day, would wreck them physically, and so they’re not able to do it every day. So what they do many times is, resort to trickery. As one doctor said, “The Ouija board is the key to the lunatic asylum.”

You know, you can pick up Ouija boards in Coles and Woolworths these days. You may not know what a Ouija board is. It’s like a little board with a pencil that you take in your hand. You hold it above the letters and the signs on the board, and you rest your fingers above it, and you ask a question. It jumps to tell you the answer. Many people think this is a harmless pass time to be engaged in. It is the first rung in the step of getting involved with spiritualism. It seems to be harmless. But I tell you the results, as this doctor said, “The Ouija board is the key to the lunatic asylum.” Today the results of spiritualism are very, very bad.

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I was lecturing on spiritualism a few years ago and I had a lady who was coming to the meeting. She was a spiritualist. She gave me a paper which was written by a spiritualist, entitled, "Spiritualism. What is it?" And it's written by spiritualists. I was very interested to look through it to read what spiritualists claim for themselves. I'm just going to read you one paragraph. Listen to what they say, "We [talking of spiritualists] do not believe in a vicarious atonement as preached by some orthodox Christians. We regard Jesus as an example, not a Savior." That is, what they're saying, they don't believe that you have to accept Jesus who died on the cross. They say, "We believe in Jesus as a good man. He lived a good life. He set us a good example, but don't talk to us about this death of Christ on the cross. Man has no Savior, but himself. We are each personally responsible for our sins and must atone for them, here or hereafter. It is far more moral to acknowledge our sins then to make amends and try to place them on the shoulders of another. We believe that Jesus was divine, but only in the sense that we are all divine. There is a difference of degree, but not of kind." So they're saying that Jesus was no more divine than us.

You see, spiritualism does not accept the death of Jesus on the cross. Well, listen! If they don't accept Jesus' death on the cross, is there any hope of salvation for them? Not at all. And they stab at the very heart of the gospel. You see, Satan hates the cross and he hates the redemption story as told in the Bible, that whosoever believeth on Christ shall have eternal life. It's that central truth of Christianity that the devil hates more than any other doctrine because it's the basis of Christianity. It's our only hope. So they expressly deny any belief. In tact, they out and out rightly deny it.

You and I must avoid spiritualism and all associated practices, but turn our eyes upon Jesus. He's the one. And, very, very soon, with our loved ones, we're going to be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. When Jesus comes, our loved ones are going to be lifted up to meet Jesus in the air and you and I, if faithful, that are still living on this earth when Jesus returns, are going to be caught up to meet our loved ones, and we're going to spend eternity with Jesus.

May God help us to determine that we're going to be there at all costs and nothing will stop us from having that wonderful joyous life that only comes through Jesus.

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